

CLAIMS

1. A drainage catheter adapted to drain fluid from a body cavity through a body conduit, comprising:

an elongate tube having a proximal end and a distal end, and being sized and configured for insertion into the body cavity;

5 an expandable retention member disposed at the distal end of the elongate tube and being adapted for movement between a low-profile state facilitating insertion of the catheter into the body cavity, and an expanded high-profile state facilitating retention of the distal end of the catheter in the body cavity; and

10 a stylet removably insertable into the elongate tube to facilitate insertion and placement of the catheter in the body cavity.

2. The drainage catheter of Claim 1, wherein the retention member is formed from a plurality of woven filaments, the woven filaments being permeable by the fluid to facilitate drainage of the fluid from the body cavity.

3. The drainage catheter of Claim 2, wherein the woven filaments form a mesh.

4. The drainage catheter of Claim 1, wherein said stylet further comprises an elongate body and a handle disposed along the elongate body.

5. The drainage catheter of Claim 4, wherein said elongate tube further comprises a hub sized and configured to receive said handle of said inserting stylet.

6. The drainage catheter of Claim 1, wherein said stylet is formed from one of a plastic tube, a solid rod or a malleable material incorporated within plastic.

7. The drainage catheter of Claim 4, wherein said handle is removably connected to said elongate body.

8. The drainage catheter of Claim 7, wherein said elongate body is one of a straight or a curved body stylet.

9. The drainage catheter of Claim 1, further comprising means for deploying the retention member after placement of the retention member in the body cavity.

10. The drainage catheter of Claim 9, wherein said deploying means includes a snap-fit mechanism.

11. The drainage catheter of Claim 9, wherein said deploying means comprises a one-way plug having a suture incorporated therethrough and a collar disposed at a proximal portion of the elongate tube, said suture being placed within the elongate tube and is operable to pull said plug through said collar to  
5 secure and deploy said retention member to the high-profile state.

12. The drainage catheter of Claim 11, wherein an end of said suture is attached to a handle of said stylet.

13. The drainage catheter of Claim 9, wherein said deploying means comprises a ratcheting member having a suture attached thereto and a collapsible backend for snap-action when pulled through a collar disposed within the elongate tube, said ratcheting member slides along the elongate tube pulling  
5 on said suture until said retention member is deployed.

14. The drainage catheter of Claim 13, wherein said stylet further comprises a plurality of extensions for operatively attaching an end of the

ratcheting member to pull said ratcheting member through the collar to deploy said retention member.

15. A drainage catheter adapted to drain fluid from a body cavity through a body conduit, comprising:

an elongate tube having a proximal end and a distal portion, and being sized and configured for insertion into the body cavity;

5 an expandable retention member disposed at the distal portion of the elongate tube and being adapted for movement between a low-profile state facilitating insertion of the catheter into the body cavity, and an expanded high-profile state facilitating retention of the distal end of the catheter in the body cavity; and

10 an energy storing member disposed at a distal end of the elongate tube and attached to the retention member to assist the retention member to collapse to the low-profile state.

16. The drainage catheter of Claim 15, wherein the energy storing member is formed from a metallic material.

17. The drainage catheter of Claim 15, wherein the energy storing member is formed from plastic.

18. The drainage catheter of Claim 15, wherein the energy storing member is a memory wire.

19. The drainage catheter of Claim 15, wherein the energy storing member is a spiral shaped wire.

20. The drainage catheter of Claim 15, wherein the energy storing member is shaped like a bellows.